

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

November 1, 2006

Hampton Inn, Okemos, Michigan

10:00 am — 2:30 pm

MINUTES

Delegates Present: Cindy Anderson, Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Michael Beach, Jean Christenson, Julie Daggett-Lawrence, Judith Dorsch-Backes, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Donna Herrle, Doris Higgs, Elaine High, Robert Hove, Maggie Kolk, Christopher Korbel, Shari Krishnan, Paul Kubicek, Tom Langdon, Jerry Oermann, Susan Peters, Chuck Saur, Jeff Siegel, Richard Spring, Debbie Squires, Susan Steinbacher, Jan VanGasse, Claudia Werner, Julie Winkelstern, Michael Yocum

Alternates Present: Mischelle Driscoll, Pat MacQuarrie, Sharon Melko, Jayanne Roggenbaum

Ex-Officio Present: Mark Larson, Michele Robinson, Jacquelyn Thompson

MDE Staff Present: Meredith Hines, Patti-Oates-Ulrich, Ann Omans, Pat West

Absent: Lynn Boza, Tina Densmore, Sheri Falvay, Jonelle Gillette, Lynda Jackson, Lee Martin, David Overly, Jane Scarlett, Chuck Stockwell, Barbara Stork

Guests: Claudia Pettit, Mary Hoag, Jason Harley

SEAC Consultant: Sandi Laham

I. Call to Order

Chairman, Chuck Saur called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call was taken.

A quorum was present.

III. Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced.

IV. Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

(Note: To request an amendment, the purpose and desired outcome must be stated)

The agenda was amended to include a Vice Chair Report; approved.

V. Amend/Approve October 4, 2006 Minutes

The October 4, 2006 minutes were approved.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Member Comment

VIII. Chairperson's Report – Chuck Saur

Chuck reported that he and Richard Spring attended the October 10 State Board of Education Meeting. No decision was made regarding Seclusion and Restraint by the SBE at the October meeting, and none is expected in November. It may be placed on the agenda for a vote in December.

A report from the SEAC Ad Hoc Committee on Seclusion/Restraint will occur later in the agenda. It was noted that any Ad Hoc committee must report to the Executive Committee. In order to act on behalf of the SEAC, a committee report will then be forwarded to the SEAC Committee of the Whole for a vote.

Chuck noted that there needs to be further definition about what seclusion means. There are many definitions among individuals, groups, organizations, etc. but no consensus as to a common definition.

Chuck also reported that the Executive Committee has reviewed the priority issues selected by the SEAC at the last meeting, and has identified subcommittee issues. Small groups will continue working on the priority issues later in this meeting to determine what information is needed to move forward.

IX. Vice Chair Beverly Baroni-Yeglic asked for volunteers to review the SEAC By-Laws. Jerry Oermann, Elaine High, and Paul Kubicek volunteered.

X. State Reports — Jacquelyn Thompson

1) Response to Public Comments presented at the October 4 SEAC meeting.

Assessment obligations under NCLB and IDEA are managed by the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, Ed Roeber, Director. USDOE recommended that Michigan make changes immediately so that assessment would be aligned with state standards. Changes to MI-Access were phased in under NCLB. Although there is always the possibility under NCLB and IDEA that money will be withheld, Michigan was not penalized.

2) Seclusion/Restraint background information: A referent group was convened in 2004 by Superintendent Tom Watkins in response to two tragic instances in the state. The charge was to define seclusion and restraint and make recommendations about their use. A referent group report went to the Board in October 2005 with the recommendation that the Board adopt it. The Board did not adopt it and asked the Superintendent to direct more work done by the MDE staff. Documents were presented in March 2006, and in October 2006.

A key question within MDE is "Where does seclusion and restraint fit within the safe school environment?" A Question and Answer document is being developed. When finalized, it will be available to the public. There is no statewide data available on the use of seclusion and restraint and the state has no authority in law at this time to collect data.

The November State Board of Education Meeting will include a discussion on a framework focusing on safe schools.

3) Emergency Rules: Created with State Office of Hearings and Administrative Rules (SOHAR) to make sure there was absolute clarity on responsibility of each entity relative to due process complaints and due process hearings. In a typical rule promulgation process SEAC will be involved. The Administrative Rule Promulgation process is spelled out in the Administrative Procedures Act as well as IDEA.

Reports from Ex-Officio Members

Mark Larson –representing Institutes of Higher Education- is working with the Office of Professional Preparation Services about alignment with current changes in IDEA. He reported that the IHE group is discussing ISD Special Education Plans that deliver services using a level system rather than the traditional categorical system (based on the severity of the disabilities instead of disability categories). The level system looks at the needs of students rather than category of students, and placement is made across state categories.

If teachers are educationally prepared by disability categories, yet districts are hiring based on knowledge to work with the severity of the disabilities, there may be a need to change some aspects of the preparation of special education teachers. A continuum of teacher preparation programs and a new endorsement may be needed. A SEAC member Sharon Melko of St. Joseph ISD is working with the level system of delivery. Interested members of the SEAC are invited to the IHE monthly meetings the third Friday of the month from 9:30- 2:30 at the Hannah Building to talk about local delivery needs. Please see Mark for more information.

Discussion followed regarding how this special education teacher preparation dialogue aligns with Superintendent Flanagan's other teacher preparation and policy groups.

XI. Ad Hoc Committee Report

Richard Spring reported that he was at the October 10 SBE meeting. He spoke during public comment representing the Michigan Association of Teachers of Students with Emotional Impairments, but also identified himself as the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on Seclusion/Restraint for the SEAC. He spoke about significant changes from the March document. He expressed the need to avoid severe unintended consequences and determine the best interest of educational community. Discussion focused on the idea that what the SEAC presents to the Board may impact the outcome of this issue.

XII. Information Items¹ - None

There were no information items.

¹ Items requiring action by the SEAC are presented first as Information Items and then again as Action Items the following month.

XIII. Action Items

There were no action items.

XIV. Member Announcements

Susan Peters, Member-at-Large, on the faculty at MSU, discussed the award of a personnel leadership training grant. MSU is starting to recruit potential PHD candidates in special education for scholarships.

Bob Hove, representing the Michigan Association of School Psychologists, reported they had adopted their position statement on Response to Intervention which will be posted to their website.

The Annual Michigan Education Association Instruction and Professional Development Conference, is November 30-December 2, at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

Michigan Transition Services Association Conference will be March 5-7.

XV. SEAC Learning: SPP Indicator Update

Ann Omans gave a short presentation about the information contained within the MDE website. Ann also reviewed the website which contains the SPP information. This list will be sent electronically including quick links. A hard copy will also be available.

Ann reminded the SEAC about the need for their input on the SPP Indicators during the next several meetings.

XVI. Future Agenda Consideration

Bob Hove requested an Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Electronic Access be formed; Jeff Siegel, Mike Beach, and Jan VanGasse volunteered.

XVII. Process Check: SEAC worked in subcommittee groups during lunch until 1:30. They reconvened as the Committee of the Whole to present subcommittee reports until 2:00 p.m. Ad Hoc Committees met subsequently.

XVIII. Adjournment: Executive Committee Debrief following today's last Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Special Education Advisory Committee
Executive Committee**

November 1, 2006
8:30 a.m.

Hampton Inn, Okemos, Michigan

Minutes

Present: Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Robert Hove, Sandi Laham, Jerry Oermann, Susan Peters, Chuck Saur, Jan VanGasse, Julie Winkelstern, Meredith Hines, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Ann Omans, Pat West, Jacquelyn Thompson

1. Review of Today's Agenda

- a. Invited Presentations (if any) None
- b. Chairperson's Report – Chuck Saur

Chuck will report on the October 4 State Board Meeting. Executive Committee agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee on Seclusion and Restraint may meet today. It will be stressed that the Ad Hoc is operating on behalf of the SEAC and whatever they develop needs to come back to the Committee of the Whole for a vote.

Chuck will focus discussion so that the SEAC experiences an opportunity for learning.

c. State Department Reports

- i. Jacque will clarify MDE's status regarding the public comment that was made at the October 4, SEAC meeting.
- ii. State Board of Education
Jacque will update SEAC on the Oct. 10 SBE meeting and give a forecast of what may happen at the Nov. 14 meeting regarding seclusion and restraint.
- iii. SPP – Ann Omans will give a learning opportunity on the MDE website and the CEN website in relation to the SPP indicators
- iv. Other

- d. Information Items - None
- e. Action Items - None
- 2. Future Agenda Development
 - Ad Hoc Reports – By-Laws
 - Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Electronic Access
 - SPP Overview – Caroline Coston (15 minutes)
 - Janet Scheetz Indicator 5 presentation
- 3. Other Issues
 - Set mailing dates for meeting packets
 - First Wednesday – SEAC meeting
 - Second Wednesday – Quick Notes
 - Third Wednesday – Anything for the next meeting to Meredith for printing
 - Fourth Wednesday – Mail the packets to all SEAC members
 - Send Indicator 5 (LRE) to the Executive Committee
 - Subcommittees – Groups 1 and 2 will meet combined and Group 3 by themselves at the December meeting.
- 4. Adjournment- Executive Committee debrief following the reconvened Committee of the Whole meeting.



***Next Mailing Date from OSE-EIS:
November 17, 2006***